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UNCLAS MANAMA 000939

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR S/CT, IO/UNP, INL/AE, L/T, NEA/ARP, AND NEA/RA
DEPT PASS NSC FOR NICK RASMUSSEN
JUSTICE FOR JIM REYNOLDS

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [PTER](#) [PREL](#) [BA](#)

SUBJECT: KING RATIFIES TWO COUNTERTERRORISM CONVENTIONS

REF: MANAMA 802

1. This is an action message, please refer to para 4.

2. On June 3, the English language daily "Bahrain Tribune" published the announcement of King Hamad's ratification of the International Convention For The Suppression Of The Financing Of Terrorism and the International Convention For The Suppression Of Terrorist Bombings. The Foreign Ministry advised in April (reftel) that the instruments of ratification would be deposited in New York in September during the next U.N. General Assembly.

3. BEGIN TEXT OF ARTICLE:

Law No. 8 for 2004 ratifies Bahrain's membership in the 1999 U.N. agreement to Prevent and Suppress financing terrorism and criminalize the willful provision of funds for such acts. Bahrain signed the agreement on November 14, 2001 at the U.N. headquarters in New York with reservations on the following articles and clauses:

A. Bahrain does not consider itself bound to rules of clause no. 1 of Article no. 24.

B. Bahrain does not consider the following agreements within the stated addition to regulation A, clause 1 of Article 2 of the agreement which is as follows:

1. Refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to entities or persons involved in terrorist acts, including diplomatic employees, under the agreement signed on December 14, 1973.

2. The international agreement against taking hostages signed on December 17, 1979.

3. the agreement on physical protection of nuclear substances signed on December 17, 1979.

4. The agreement on combating illegal actions against the safety of marine movement signed on March 10, 1988.

5. The protocol on combating illegal actions against the safety of stationary posts along the continental boundaries signed in Rome on March 10, 1988.

6. The international agreement on combating terrorist attacks by the use of bombs which the U.N. General Assembly ratified on December 15, 1977.

These reservations will not be valid regarding any agreement in case of Bahrain's memberships to it in the future.

HM the King issued Law no. 9 for 2004 related to Bahrain's membership in the international agreement on combating terrorist attacks by the use of bombs that the U.N. General Assembly ratified on December 15, 1997, with the reservation: Bahrain does not consider itself compelled to clause 1 of Article 20 of the agreement.

END TEXT.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST: Obtaining National Assembly assent to ratify these two conventions was not easy for the GOB, but they achieved it despite harsh criticism from some parliamentarians. Post would appreciate Department's expert opinion on the significance of Bahrain's reservations to the two treaties and guidance on whether we should weigh in with the GOB on removing the reservations in the future. END COMMENT AND ACTION REQUEST.
WILLIAMSON